

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of performing preliminary flashing for a camera, the method comprising:

- generating a first readout signal pulse;
- performing preliminary flashing at a time t1 after the rising edge of the first readout signal;
- generating the rising edge of a second readout signal pulse at a time t2 that is after time t1;
- measuring a first average brightness at time t2;
- ending preliminary flashing at a time t3 after time t2;
- generating the rising edge of a third readout signal pulse at a time t4; and
- measuring a second average brightness at time t4; and
- comparing the first average brightness with an upper limit and comparing the second average brightness with a lower limit.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the rising edge of the readout signal pulses are generated after the falling edge of vertical sync signals.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the first average brightness is measured exactly at time t2.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the second average brightness is measured exactly at time t4.

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1, further comprising:~~

A method of performing preliminary flashing for a camera, the method comprising:
generating a first readout signal pulse;
performing preliminary flashing at a time t1 after the rising edge of the first readout signal;
generating the rising edge of a second readout signal pulse at a time t2 that is after time t1;
measuring a first average brightness at time t2;
ending preliminary flashing at a time t3 after time t2;
generating the rising edge of a third readout signal pulse at a time t4; and

measuring a second average brightness at time t4, wherein
if the first average brightness is greater than an upper limit and the second average brightness is less than a lower limit, then redoing the process, beginning with the first step.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1, further comprising:~~

A method of performing preliminary flashing for a camera, the method comprising:
generating a first readout signal pulse;
performing preliminary flashing at a time t1 after the rising edge of the first readout signal;
generating the rising edge of a second readout signal pulse at a time t2 that is after time t1;
measuring a first average brightness at time t2;
ending preliminary flashing at a time t3 after time t2;
generating the rising edge of a third readout signal pulse at a time t4; and
measuring a second average brightness at time t4, wherein
if the first average brightness is greater than an upper limit and the second average brightness is greater than a lower limit, then setting main flashing time in accordance with the second average brightness.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1, further comprising:~~

A method of performing preliminary flashing for a camera, the method comprising:
generating a first readout signal pulse;
performing preliminary flashing at a time t1 after the rising edge of the first readout signal;
generating the rising edge of a second readout signal pulse at a time t2 that is after time t1;
measuring a first average brightness at time t2;
ending preliminary flashing at a time t3 after time t2;
generating the rising edge of a third readout signal pulse at a time t4; and
measuring a second average brightness at time t4, wherein
if the first average brightness is less than an upper limit and the second average brightness is greater than a lower limit, then setting main flashing time in accordance with the average of the first average brightness and the second average brightness.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the main flashing time is inversely proportional to the average of the first average brightness and the second average brightness.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1, further comprising:~~

A method of performing preliminary flashing for a camera, the method comprising:
generating a first readout signal pulse;
performing preliminary flashing at a time t1 after the rising edge of the first readout
signal;
generating the rising edge of a second readout signal pulse at a time t2 that is after
time t1;
measuring a first average brightness at time t2;
ending preliminary flashing at a time t3 after time t2;
generating the rising edge of a third readout signal pulse at a time t4; and
measuring a second average brightness at time t4, wherein
if the first average brightness is less than an upper limit and the second average
brightness is less than a lower limit, then setting main flashing time in accordance with the
first average brightness.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
performing main flashing.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the main flashing is performed a set
time after t3.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the set time is 760 ms.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the camera is a digital camera.

Claim 14 (original): A method of performing preliminary flashing for a camera, the method
comprising:

generating a first readout signal pulse;
performing preliminary flashing at a time t1 after the rising edge of the first readout
signal;
generating the falling edge of a second readout signal pulse at a time t2 that is after
time t1;
measuring a first average brightness at time t2;
ending preliminary flashing at a time t3 after time t2;
generating the falling edge of a third readout signal pulse at a time t4; and

measuring a second average brightness at time t_4 .

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the time t_1 is after the falling edge of the first readout signal.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 14, further comprising:

if the first average brightness is greater than an upper limit and the second average brightness is less than a lower limit, then redoing the process, beginning with the first step.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 14, further comprising:

if the first average brightness is greater than an upper limit and the second average brightness is greater than a lower limit, then setting main flashing time in accordance with the second average brightness.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 14, further comprising:

if the first average brightness is less than an upper limit and the second average brightness is less than a lower limit, then setting main flashing time in accordance with the first average brightness.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 14, further comprising:

if the first average brightness is less than an upper limit and the second average brightness is greater than a lower limit, then setting main flashing time in accordance with the average of the first average brightness and the second average brightness;

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 19, wherein the main flashing time is inversely proportional to the average of the first average brightness and the second average brightness.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 14, further comprising:

performing main flashing.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 21, wherein the main flashing is performed a set time after t_3 .

Claim 23 (original): A method of performing preliminary flashing for a camera, the method comprising:

generating a first readout signal pulse;

performing preliminary flashing at a time t1 after the rising edge of the first readout signal;
generating the rising edge of a second readout signal pulse at a time t2 that is after time t1;
measuring a first average brightness at time t2;
ending preliminary flashing at a time t3 after time t2;
generating the falling edge of a third readout signal pulse at a time t4; and
measuring a second average brightness at time t4.

Claim 24 (original): A method of performing preliminary flashing for a camera, the method comprising:

generating a first readout signal pulse;
performing preliminary flashing at a time t1 after the rising edge of the first readout signal;
generating the falling edge of a second readout signal pulse at a time t2 that is after time t1;
measuring a first average brightness at time t2;
ending preliminary flashing at a time t3 after time t2;
generating the rising edge of a third readout signal pulse at a time t4; and
measuring a second average brightness at time t4.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A camera comprising:

an image sensing portion;
an image signal processing portion;
a light emitting device;
a light emission driving portion;
a microcontroller that generates a control signal and transmits the control signal to the light emission driving portion; and
a timing signal generator that generates both a read-out signal and a vertical sync signal and transmits each of the read-out signal and the vertical sync signal to both the image sensing portion and the microcontroller.

wherein the rising edge of each read-out signal is generated after the falling edge of each vertical sync signal.

Claim 26 (original): The camera of claim 25, wherein the read-out signal comprises substantially smaller pulses than the vertical sync signal.

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Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (original): The camera of claim 25, wherein the camera is a digital camera.